

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEETPOOL SLOUGH WETLAND COMPLEX
POOL 9, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WISCONSINIowa

LOCATION: Pool Slough is a backwater area located on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River at the Iowa-Minnesota border in pool 9, near New Albin, Iowa. Part of the site lies within the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The remainder of the area is owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Waterfowl numbers are declining nationwide due to small breeding populations returning to the breeding grounds, unfavorable environmental conditions, accelerated loss of nesting habitat, and low brood survival. Iowa has lost 99 percent (2.3 million acres) of its natural marshes. The Upper Mississippi River is a major migration route for birds, including waterfowl, during the spring and fall and plays a major role in providing feeding and resting habitat for birds that populate the continent. It is critical to provide food and resting habitat for the migratory waterfowl.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project would develop about 150 acres of moist soil units on Refuge lands and develop a 550-acre wetland complex on Iowa DNR lands. The moist soil units would involve constructing low dikes with water control structures to regulate water levels in the units to maximize waterfowl food production and aid in water movement. Suitable material for dike construction would be available inside the dikes. The wetland development would consist of excavating up to 40 old river oxbows and potholes and about 10,000 feet of level ditches. Spoil banks would be seeded to provide nesting cover for waterfowl.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project would produce a food source of at least 150,000 pounds of seed annually for migratory waterfowl resulting in about 850,000 duck use-days. In addition, about 550 acres of wetlands would be developed, providing a diverse complex of interspersed land/water habitats beneficial to waterfowl, aquatic furbearers, wading birds, and eagles.

FINANCIAL DATA: Total Federal and non-Federal costs for general design are estimated at \$120,000 and construction costs are estimated at \$800,000. Annual costs for OM&R are estimated at \$3,000. General design and construction costs of the moist soil units and part of the wetland complex would be 100-percent Federal because these project features would be located on lands of the National Fish and Wildlife Refuge System and "managed as a national wildlife refuge" within the meaning of Section 906(e) of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act. The remainder of the project costs would be shared 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal. The non-Federal costs are estimated to be \$110,000. Costs for OM&R would be 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal. Annual O&M requirements would be satisfied through an agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the non-Federal sponsor. The non-Federal sponsor would be the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.